

VZCZCXRO7296  
RR RUEHROV  
DE RUEHDJ #0815 2901508  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 161508Z OCT 08  
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9599  
INFO RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE  
RHMFISS/CJTF HOA  
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 000815

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E, AF/RSA BANDO, NEA/RA SOUCEK, AND  
PM/PPA FOSTER  
LONDON, PARIS, ROME FOR AFRICA WATCHER  
CJTF-HOA FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2018  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [DJ](#)  
SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI ON AFRICOM: WELCOME

REF: STATE 104550 (NOTAL)

Classified By: PolOff Rebecca K. Hunter for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1](#). (U) PolOff delivered reftel points on AFRICOM stand up to  
GODJ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director for  
International Organizations Mohamed Idriss Farah on October  
[¶15](#).

[¶2](#). (C) Farah communicated Djibouti's strong positive attitude  
towards AFRICOM, which he characterized as "very important  
for stability and development." Farah suggested that while  
AFRICOM's public message might have been too complicated or  
confusing at first, now the USG would do well to emphasize  
AFRICOM's potential contributions towards the stability and  
security that are crucial for Africa's economic development.

[¶3](#). (SBU) Farah also reiterated Djibouti's offer to host  
AFRICOM headquarters, calling Djibouti the "natural location"  
both for its strategic position and for the GODJ's experience  
in hosting the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa  
(CJTF-HOA).

[¶4](#). (SBU) COMMENT: No other country in Africa is as directly  
supportive of AFRICOM as Djibouti. Djibouti currently hosts  
2,500 U.S. troops and military contractors serving with  
CJTF-HOA and other tenant commands at the only U.S. military  
base in Africa. Senior Djiboutian officials, including the  
foreign minister and the chief of defense (CHOD), have  
repeatedly told visiting U.S. officials that Djibouti  
welcomes AFRICOM and values U.S. military presence in  
Djibouti, believing that it encourages foreign direct  
investment. END COMMENT.

WONG